

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following "Listing of the Claims" will replace all prior versions and all prior listings of the claims in the present application:

Listing of the Claims:

1-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A method for killing at least 99.9% of the anthrax spores in a fluid, comprising the steps of:

- a) passing a fluid containing anthrax spores through one positive-displacement pump or ~~more-through multiple~~ positive-displacement pumps connected in series; and,
- b) operating the one positive-displacement pump or ~~more-multiple~~ positive-displacement pumps connected in series at a pressure ratio or pressure ratios such that the passage of the fluid containing anthrax spores through the one positive-displacement pump or through the multiple ~~more~~-positive-displacement pumps connected in series kills at least 99.9% of the anthrax spores in the fluid.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the one positive displacement pump or at least one of the ~~one or more~~multiple positive-displacement pumps connected in series is operated at a pressure ratio exceeding the recommended operating pressure limitations for the one positive displacement pump or at least one of the ~~one or more~~multiple positive-displacement pumps connected in series.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the one positive displacement pump or at least one of the ~~one or more~~multiple positive-displacement pumps connected in series is operated at a pressure ratio of at least 2.0.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the one positive displacement pump or at least one of the ~~one or more~~multiple positive-displacement pumps connected in series is operated at a pressure ratio sufficient to raise the

temperature of the fluid containing biological contaminants passing through the one positive displacement pump or at least one of the ~~one or more~~multiple positive-displacement pumps connected in series to at least 200 °C.

42. (Previously Presented) A method for killing at least 99.9% of the anthrax spores in a fluid, comprising the steps of:

a) passing a fluid containing anthrax spores through a positive-displacement pump; and,

b) operating the positive-displacement pump at a pressure ratio of at least 2.0 such that the passage of the fluid containing anthrax spores through the positive-displacement pump kills at least 99.9% of the anthrax spores in the fluid.